

Arlington Recycling Committee
Minutes of 3/6/14

PRESENT Co-Chair Juli Brazile, Co-Chair Gordon Jamieson, Recycling Coordinator Charlotte Milan, Janice Pare, Betsy Tinkham, Secretary Pete Howard

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Charlotte provided an update (Ref 1) on diversion. The Jan solid waste tonnage is 1% greater than Jan 2014. The recycling FAQ on the website gets 5000 hits/month, far more hits than any other page.

VOTED to subsidize at EcoFest up to 42 compost bins to purchase at \$20 at a cost of \$840. Unanimous.

VOTED to fund foam recycling at the spring CCD at a cost of \$250. Unanimous.

ECOFEST PRESENTATIONS:

Erica needs help with sonatube stand. She has requested stuff to tack up. Charlotte to provide tube & bucket with sand for base. She will discuss w/ Erica.

Slide show reviewed. Ellen's photos provided so far inserted. The "NO" and "YES" will be deleted from slides. Janice's poster surround will include "DO NOT RECYCLE" for the laptop showing the red slides and "DO RECYCLE" for the laptop showing the green slides. This surround will also credit Ellen's photo enterprise. A set of slides with "NO & "YES" will be maintained for Charlotte's use. Order will be changed to separate similar photos. Will add green slide of tops & lids. Booth will have electrical outlet. Pete to email slides to everyone on Fri before EcoFest for installing on personal laptops. Each worker will bring a laptop ready to run slideshow.

Volunteer times:

10-12 Gordon, Janice

12-2 Juli, Pete

PLASTIC SHOPPING BAG RECYCLING: Laura has visited 6 stores. She reported by Email (Ref 2). Members discussed how to get other stores to recycle. Agreed that the initial approach should be discussion with each store asking how ARC could help. Betsy told how Trader Joe's was willing but could not find satisfactory collection equipment. She volunteered to work with Laura.

EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TARGETS: Gordon to have 20,000 HH Op-Ed article ready for the Advocate on the week before EcoFest. It will be signed by Co-Chairs Gordon & Juli. He will include a title line that could be used by all planned articles, perhaps ARLINGTON RECYCLING COMMITTEE. Planned articles include:

20,000 HH April

Paper, Paper, Paper May

Use Garbage Disposals June

Recycle Plastic Shopping Bags (maybe)

OTHER INITIATIVES

Charlotte is looking into collecting rigid plastic – toys, glazing, etc- at spring CCD.

JRM will do it for \$200

Gordon suggested getting tires out of the trash stream by taking them to tire dealers.

Charlotte is talking with JRM about recycling rugs. They would be banned from the trash stream and households would buy a sticker to pay for pickup cost.

There will be a 1 day composting class in May.

BRACKET COMPOSTING: Not discussed.

BUSINESS RECYCLING: Not discussed.

NEXT MEETING 4/3/14 Meetings held 1st Thursday monthly at 7:30 PM in the Art Room in the Senior Center

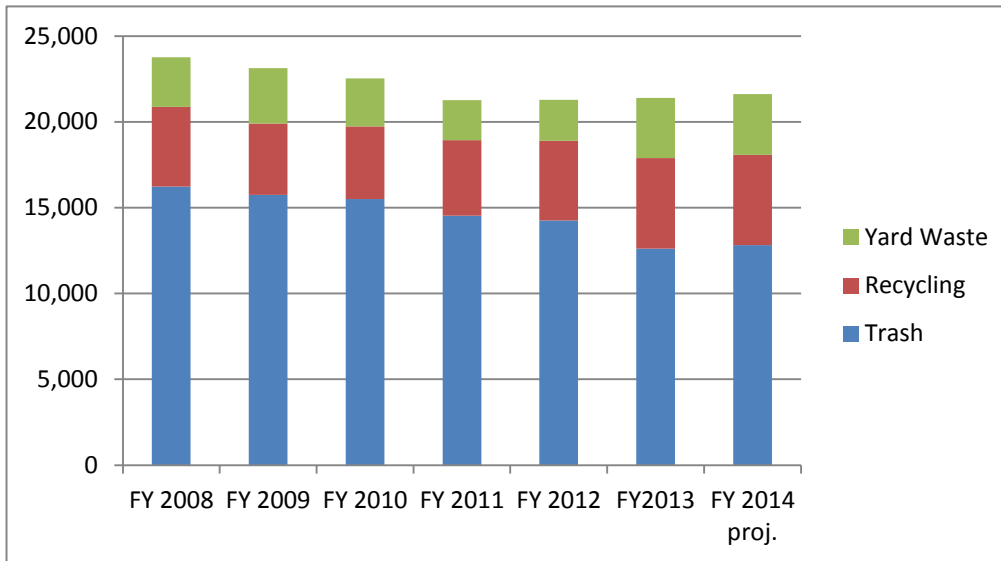
Ref 1 Coordinator's Report

Ref 2 Laura Kiesel's Email Report on Plastic Bag Recycling

Arlington Recycling Committee
Recycling Coordinator Report
March 6, 2014

Arlington Municipal Solid Waste Tonnage by Waste Category

	Trash	Recycling	Yard Waste
FY 2008	16,232	4,639	2,881
FY 2009	15,740	4,165	3,216
FY 2010	15,493	4,244	2,799
FY 2011	14,538	4,395	2,332
FY 2012	14,248	4,652	2,381
FY2013	12,603	5,278	3,503
FY 2014 proj.	12,823	5,248	3,550



Spring compost deals: \$30 while supplies last, starting at EcoFest; \$10 off (\$20 net) for compost class attendees

Month	Solid Waste
Jan. 2013	1,074
Feb.	865
Mar.	976
Apr.	1,084
May	1,148
Jun.	1,113
Jul.	1,126
Aug.	1,069
Sep.	1,042
Oct.	1,127
Nov.	1,049
Dec.	1,138
Jan. 2014	1,086

Rigid Plastic: could be collected at Community Collection Day for \$200 by JRM, I will continue to get comparables

ARC Expense Report

Date	Purchase	Cost proj.	Balance
1-Jul-13	Starting bal		\$ 3,000
16-Nov-13	Foam Rec	250	\$ 2,750
1-Mar-14	Trashformatio	150 for prizes	\$ 2,600
Mar-14	compost bin	X 42 bins=	\$ 1,760
	\$20 disc (?)	\$840	
1-May-14	Foam Rec	250	

Proposed Expense

May-14	Rigid plastic	200	
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Hello Gordon & all,

I did go to both the CVS in the Center & the one by the HS. Neither one has a receptacle to take back plastic bags. The mgr at the Center store told me to call the HQ hotline, just as the East Arlington one did. The HS store told me I could ask a mgr when one is in, but I have a feeling it will be the same answer. I will be in Davis Sq tomorrow and will ask them how they got their take-back program and will try to call the CVS hotline for HQ but might not get to it till next week.

Thanks, Laura

Hi Laura

Super work .. Many thanks!

Re: CVS you might want to try the new store next to the High School on Mass Ave
Gordon

Hi Gordon,

So, i went around all of the large retails stores in Arlington and inquired about their plastic bag use and recycling program. This is what I have so far:

1. Stop and Shop - S&S does do take back/recycling of plastic bags and the manager I spoke with, Andrew Ziner, said it is very popular and they need to empty the collection can several times a day. The plastic bags they offer are made of 15% post-consumer recycled material and has a recycling logo on it asking you to take back. A new policy, which they literally just began a week ago, is that all cashier's are now supposed to ask customers upon checking out if they would like to purchase/use one of their reusable cloth bags, which are at the check-out counter (they are 99 cents, I think). They used to do a 5 cent discount for bringing your own bags, but the mgr said it got too expensive (on a sidenote, I asked if they would consider charging people 5-10 or a quarter cents per plastic bag, and he said it's something they might consider). Anyway, we exchanged cards and he said he would send me some figures related to their plastic bag recycling program and other sustainable initiatives and I emailed him a short while ago following up to see if he could do that soonish. I will forward that to you when I get it.

2. Whole Foods - As you know, they do not offer plastic bags anymore at check-out, only paper bags made out of 100% post-consumer recycled paper or the option to purchase your own cloth bags. They do have a take back for recycling bags, which is near where there other trash/recycling is. I thought it was fairly easy to find, though maybe not as clearly marked. The customer service rep I spoke to said they empty it 3-4 Xs a day (it's about 4ft tall). I emailed the WF "Green Captina" for the Arlington chain to see if I can get more details and stats on this, and am waiting to hear basic. On an unrelated sidenote, the Green Captain for the Arlington store used to work for one of the Cambridge chains and was responsible for spearheading the compost take-back program for that store. I inquired whether this is something the Arlington store would consider and was told they would be open. So I've emailed about that as well. I will let you know what I hear back.

3. WalGreens - Not so good. I went to both the branch near Spy Pond on Mass Ave and the one in the Heights where TJ's is. Even though their bags have a recycling logo and a msg urging people to take back and recycle, neither outlet actually had a receptacle for taking back bags. I spoke with the mgr at the Spy Pond store and she referred me to the Boston area branch mgt office to ask if they would consider doing this. I also asked about reusable bags. They do have reusable bags at most (but not all) the check-out counters, for sale for 99 cents. I am going to call the mgt office in Waltham tomorrow to get more details if possible.

4. Trader Joe's. I was surprised to find that TJs still has plastic bags. I think they bag more with paper, but the mgr said it's just up to what the customer wants. They do not have any take-back receptacle. I asked them if they'd consider getting one and other incentive policies to lower their plastic bag use. They seemed receptive.

5. CVS - I went to the CVS in my neighborhood near Menotomy Grill and the mgr was pretty

brusque with me and simply told me all questions they refer to their corporate HQ (1-800-SHOP-CVS). They didn't have a take-back receptacle in that store. He didn't even know what i was talking about and at first said that CVS doesn't have that. But the one in Davis Sq does, as I explained. Anyway, that was it. Again, he was pretty quick with me. So I might try again when a different mgr is there. I haven't made it to the one in the Center yet to see if they do take-back. Probably this weekend. I might also ask the Davis Sq. one how they got their's and the stats on it, etc.

Thanks, Laura

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